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Agenda item 20 (b)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Spain, United States of America and Venezuela: revised draft resolution

International assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua: aftermath of the war and natural disasters

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 45/15 of 20 November 1992, concerning the situation in Central America, and resolutions 47/169 of 22 December 1992, 48/8 of 22 October 1993, 49/16 of 17 November 1994, 50/85 of 15 December 1995 and 51/8 of 25 October 1996 concerning the item entitled "International assistance for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Nicaragua: aftermath of the war and natural disasters", in which it requested the international community to continue providing support to Nicaragua, taking into account the exceptional circumstances faced by that country, and requested the Secretary-General, in coordination with the Nicaraguan authorities to provide the assistance necessary in the process of consolidation of peace,

Aware that, despite the reduction and renegotiation of the heavy burden of the foreign debt, achieved with the collaboration of the international community, Nicaragua continues to be a heavily indebted country, a fact which negatively affects its ability to ensure real sustainable growth,

Recognizing that, although progress has been made in the area of property problems, much still remains to be done, and that the resolution of this problem is an important factor in the consolidation of peace and democracy in Nicaragua,

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Recognizing also the intensive efforts by the Government of Nicaragua to promote a sustained economic recovery and the considerable progress made in securing a broad social consensus by means of an ongoing process of national dialogue with a view to addressing national problems in a peaceful way,

Noting the importance of programmes for creating a culture of respect for human rights, laying the foundations of peace and promoting ethical values which are being implemented in Nicaragua with the cooperation of the international community,

Taking note of the progress achieved in the prevention of natural disasters, the mitigation of their effects and assistance to victims through the municipal, regional and national system created by the Nicaraguan authorities with the assistance of the international community, which demonstrated its effectiveness in the emergency assistance provided to mitigate the serious effects of the drought caused by the El Niño phenomenon, which had a major impact on the country's agricultural production,

Taking into consideration the fact that in 1998 the demobilization of the last armed group remaining in the aftermath of the war was completed,

Considering that, despite the dedication and efforts of the Nicaraguan authorities in mine clearance, in cooperation with the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Defence Board, in many areas which were the scene of armed conflicts the problem of landmines persists, continuing to endanger the population and preventing cultivation and movement in vast areas of the country,

Expressing its appreciation for the work of the Support Group for Nicaragua, which, under the coordination of the Secretary-General, continues to play an active role in supporting that country's efforts towards economic recovery and social development,

Considering that, despite the regional fire control and prevention strategy, the El Niño phenomenon prolonged the dry season during the period 1997–1998, leading to an increase in the number of forest fires in the Central American region, Nicaragua being the country which suffered most with extensive tropical forest areas affected,

Taking note with satisfaction of the report of the Secretary-General on the measures adopted pursuant to resolution 51/8,

1. *Commends* the efforts made by the international community, including the United Nations system, to supplement the action undertaken by the Government of Nicaragua and by other parties concerned in the tasks of resolving Nicaragua's special economic problems, strengthening democracy and consolidating peace;

2. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Secretary-General for his report on the measures adopted pursuant to resolution 51/8;

3. *Encourages* the Government of Nicaragua to support the development of medium and long-term national programmes and strategies, in particular those related to poverty alleviation, economic and social development and the solution of property problems, with a view to the consolidation of a stable democracy;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* the efforts and progress made in mine clearance in Nicaragua and calls on the States members of international organizations to continue providing the material, technical and financial support needed by the Government of Nicaragua to complete mine clearance activities in its national territory;

5. *Stresses* the need for the international community to continue its cooperation with Nicaragua in order to supplement its national efforts and provide it with the necessary financial resources consistently and under favourable conditions, with a view to the effective

promotion of its economic growth and development, the conservation of its natural resources and the strengthening of its democracy;

6. *Invites* creditor countries and funding institutions to continue supporting Nicaragua in negotiations in order to come to an effective and equitable solution to the external debt problem and to support the country so that it may join the Heavily-Indebted Poor Countries initiative as soon as possible;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the action taken during the humanitarian segment to implement the present resolution.